

studied human nature as well as the Bible, and had an eye to the sovereignty of the people as well as the rights of the Christian community.

The men of Tyrol, under the leadership of Michael Gaismayr, were equally insistent and still more comprehensive in their demands. These high-spirited mountaineers, who had preserved some political rights in spite of the rule of a tyrannic government (they were represented in the Landtag), are the sworn foes of all oppression, secular or spiritual, and are determined to found a new State as well as make an end of social abuse. They, too, demand the pure gospel and the right to elect their pastors, as indispensable preliminaries. But they insist, in addition, on the election of all officials by the community, the secularisation of all ecclesiastical property, equal law and justice for all without distinction of class, the abolition of feudal jurisdictions, whether secular or ecclesiastical, the establishment of a central authority under Prince Ferdinand to maintain equal laws for all. Some months later (June 1526) Gaismayr improved on this programme, in some respects, in the spirit of Sir Thomas More. His scheme in the main might almost be mistaken for an attempt to inaugurate Utopia among the mountains of Tyrol. The keynote of his Landesordnung is social equality. All castles and town walls should be destroyed ; there should, in fact, henceforth be no towns, only villages. " No man must be higher and more important than another, for out of such distinction there arise discussions, pride, sedition ; there must be perfect equality throughout the land.* From this State the merchant must be banished ; the Government must become the general merchant and manufacturer. Agriculture is the main pursuit; cattle-breeding, fanning, the cultivation of the vine, the reclamation of swamps and other wastes, must consequently be encouraged. There should only be one university ; the pure Bible the only science taught in it. The administration of justice should be entirely in the hands of the people, each community to elect annually a court of one judge and eight jurors, and the members of the central government at Brixen to consist of popularly elected deputies. Gaismayr further insists that " all godless persons who do violence to the eternal word of God, oppress the common people, and